

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
215 Bay Street
Easton, MD 21601
May 19, 2021

Present:

Board

Joseph Secrist, President	(R)
Walter Black	(D)
Susan MacKinnon	(D)
Richard Bulman	(R)
Wadella Thomas	(R)

Staff

Jeri Cook, Election Director

Board Attorney

Lyndsey Ryan

Public

None

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held on May 19, 2021. Due to restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, the meeting was held by videoconference and teleconference. The public was invited to listen by conference call and advised via the Board website and on the agenda of the procedure to do so. Mr. Secrist called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Secrist noted that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Secrist asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 21, 2021, copies of which had been forwarded to the Board Members in advance of the meeting. Ms. MacKinnon moved approval of the minutes as presented. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Secrist asked if there were any additions to the agenda as published. Mr. Black moved approval of the agenda as presented. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Election Director's Report

Ms. Cook provided a written report of the activities of the staff prior to the meeting. A copy of that report is attached. She elaborated on her written report as follows:

- An additional \$155,770 has been transferred to our budget due to the shortfall caused by the changes to the 2020 election. Upon the request from the board, Ms. Cook will contact the county to verify if this was action taken by the county council.
- We await the selection by the State Board of the vendor for the new pollbooks is still in the evaluation process. Once approved by the State, the anticipated implementation will be for the 2022 Gubernatorial Primary Election.
- Staff has completed post-election maintenance on our voting equipment.

Board Attorney's Report

Ms. Ryan has reviewed the staff draft agreements for rental of polling places for the next Primary and General Elections. She has a few typographical changes to suggest. Discussion of the agreements continued under Old Business.

COMAR updates have been released by the State Board. Ms. Ryan will forward them to the Board Members by email.

Old Business

a. Facility for Election Office

Nothing new to report. Mr. Bulman suggested that we continue to contact the County and keep our space needs in front of them. We also need to remind them of the best times for the office relocation given the voting cycles. Ms. Cook agreed to contact the county in this regard.

b. Review of Invoices

Ms. Cook previously provided Board Members with copies of invoices received since the last meeting. There were no questions from Board Members.

c. Budget FY2021

Ms. Cook previously provided reports on expenditures recorded by the county through February. She again noted that an additional \$155,770 has been transferred to our budget as follows:

\$8,300 to account 5000
\$116,220 to account 5455
\$31,250 to account 5005

d. County Bulletins

Ms. Cook previously provided copies of County Bulletins to each Board Member. Ms. Cook responded to questions.

e. Budget FY2022

There was no new information regarding the budget for next year or the dates for public hearings.

f. Polling place agreements

At the previous meeting, the Board discussed the rental fee to be included in the agreements for Early Voting at the Easton Firehouse and the Election Day fee for the local polling places, other than the schools and the Talbot County Community Center. Ms. Cook provided an analysis of the fees paid during the last General Election compared with the cost for the next Primary Election, using her suggested fees. After discussion, Mr. Bulman moved that the fees for the use of these facilities for the upcoming Primary and General Election be \$3,000 for the entire Early Voting period and \$300 for Election Day to include all cleaning. Mr. Black seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Regarding the forms of agreement for use of the polling places, drafts had been previously provided to the Board Members. In order to finalize the agreements before the next Board Meeting, Ms. Ryan suggested the Board approve the forms of the agreements as presented allowing for minor typographical amendments as agreed to by herself and Ms. Cook, and subject to electronic approval of the final form by Board Members. Mr. Bulman moved to approve the forms of agreement with the caveat suggested by Ms. Ryan. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

g. MAEO/biennial conference

Ms. Cook provided the Board and the Board Attorney with the Tentative Agenda and registration forms for the conference. She asked that Board Members and Ms. Ryan

complete the meeting and room registration forms prior to our June meeting. Attendance at the biennial conference is required. However, virtual attendance is available.

New Business

There were no items under New Business.

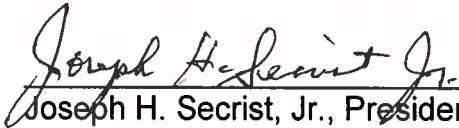
Confirmation of next meeting

Mr. Secrist noted that the next meeting of the Board will be Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment


Mr. Black moved adjournment of the meeting. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Attested,



Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

Respectfully submitted,



Richard B. Bulman, Secretary

May 2021

- The FY2021 budget has been revised to reflect more funds in line items, Elect 5000, Elect5455 and RegElect5005. Total transfer to our budget of \$155,770.
- MAEO conference information –
 - Wednesday, August 25 will be the Biennial portion of the conference – it will be held virtually – except for the Board Attorneys
 - If attending from the hotel – bring own laptop to attend the virtual meeting
 - If someone cannot attend – there must be a waiver completed
- Director's meeting will be held, Thursday, May 20.
- Post Election Maintenance on equipment was completed, by Fred, the end of April.